AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (Currently amended) A multi-lamp drive device connected with a power source for driving at least a lamp, comprising:

a drive circuit comprising a pulse width modulation controller for outputting a modulation signal and a converter connected ~~with~~ to said pulse width modulation controller ~~and used~~ for forming ~~outputting~~ an output excitation power source based on said power source;

a transformer comprising a magnetic core, a primary coil and a secondary coil, said magnetic core having a first side column, a second side column and at least a central column between said first and second side columns, said second side column being magnetically coupled to said first side column through a first magnetic gap and said central column having a second magnetic gap formed therein, said primary coil being wound around said first side column and electrically coupled with said output excitation power source, said secondary coil being wound around said second side column and electrically coupled with one end of at least a ballast component, the other end of said ballast component being connected to a first end of at least a balanced inductor; and

at least a lamp whose one end is connected to a second end of said balanced inductor and whose other end is connected to said drive circuit.

Claim 2 (Original) The multi-lamp drive device as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said lamp is a cold cathode fluorescent lamp.

Claim 3 (Original) The multi-lamp drive device as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said ballast component is a capacitor having a relatively higher impedance.

Claim 4 (Original) The multi-lamp drive device as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said balanced inductor is a winding coil of a balanced transformer.

Claim 5 (Currently amended) A multi-lamp drive device connected with a power source for driving at least a lamp, comprising:

a drive circuit comprising a pulse width modulation controller, for outputting a modulation signal and a converter connected ~~with~~ to said pulse width modulation controller ~~and used~~ for forming ~~outputting~~ an output excitation power source based on said power source;

a transformer comprising a magnetic core, a primary coil and a second coil, said magnetic core having a first side column, a second side column

and at least a central column between said first and second side columns, said second side column being magnetically coupled to said first side column through a first magnetic gap and said central column having a second magnetic gap formed therein, said primary coil being wound around said first side column and electrically coupled with said output excitation power source, said secondary coil being wound around said second side column and electrically coupled with one end of at least a ballast component, the other end of said ballast component being connected to a first end of at least a lamp; and

at least a balanced inductor whose one end is connected to a second end of said lamp and whose other end is connected to said drive circuit.

Claim 6 (Original) The multi-lamp drive device as claimed in Claim 5, wherein said lamp is a cold cathode fluorescent lamp.

Claim 7 (Original) The multi-lamp drive device as claimed in Claim 5, wherein said ballast component is a capacitor having a relatively higher impedance.

Claim 8 (Original) The multi-lamp drive device as claimed in Claim 5, wherein said balanced inductor is a winding coil of a balanced transformer.

Claim 9 (Currently amended) A multi-lamp drive device connected with a power source for driving at least a lamp, comprising:

a drive circuit comprising a pulse width modulation controller for outputting a modulation signal and a converter connected ~~with~~ to said pulse width modulation controller ~~and used~~ for forming ~~outputting~~ an output excitation power source based on said power source;

a transformer comprising a magnetic core, a primary coil and a secondary coil, said magnetic core having a first side column, a second side column and at least a central column between said first and second side columns, said second side column being magnetically coupled to said first side column through a first magnetic gap and said central column having a second magnetic gap formed therein, said primary coil being wound around said first side column and electrically coupled with said output excitation power source, said secondary coil being wound around said second side column, one end of said secondary coil being electrically coupled with one end of at least a ballast component, the other end of said secondary coil being grounded, the other end of said ballast component being connected to a first end of at least a lamp; and

at least a balanced inductor whose one end is connected to a second end of said lamp and whose other end is connected to said drive circuit.

Claim 10 (Original) The multi-lamp drive device as claimed in Claim 9, wherein said lamp is a cold cathode fluorescent lamp.

Claim 11 (Original) The multi-lamp drive device as claimed in Claim 9, wherein said ballast component is a capacitor having a relatively higher impedance.

Claim 12 (Original) The multi-lamp drive device as claimed in Claim 9, wherein said balanced inductor is a winding coil of a balanced transformer.

Claim 13 (Currently amended) A multi-lamp drive device connected with a power source for driving at least a lamp, comprising:

a drive circuit comprising a pulse width modulation controller for outputting a modulation signal and a converter connected ~~with~~ to said pulse width modulation controller ~~and used~~ for forming ~~outputting~~ an output excitation power source based on said power source;

a transformer comprising a magnetic core, a primary coil and a secondary coil, said magnetic core having a first side column, a second side column and at least a central column between said first and second side columns, said second side column being magnetically coupled to said first side column through a first magnetic gap and said central column having a second magnetic

gap formed therein, said primary coil being wound around said first side column and electrically coupled with said output excitation power source, said secondary coil being wound around said second side column, one end of said secondary coil being electrically coupled with one end of at least a ballast component, the other end of said secondary coil being grounded, the other end of said ballast component being connected to a first end of at least a balanced inductor; and

at least a lamp whose one end is connected to a second end of said balanced inductor and whose other end is connected to said drive circuit.

Claim 14 (Original) The multi-lamp drive device as claimed in Claim 13, wherein said lamp is a cold cathode fluorescent lamp.

Claim 15 (Original) The multi-lamp drive device as claimed in Claim 13, wherein said ballast component is a capacitor having a relatively higher impedance.

Claim 16 (Original) The multi-lamp drive device as claimed in Claim 13, wherein said balanced inductor is a winding coil of a balanced transformer.

Claims 17-20 (Cancelled).